



## **SEMINOLE COUNTY TRAILS AND GREENWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE October 23, 2003 Minutes**

### **Members in attendance:**

Wiley Dykes  
John Penny  
Mike Martin  
Tony Tizzio  
Bill Fernandez  
Roger Cooper  
Pat Burkett  
Cindy Gennell

### **Staff in attendance:**

Mark Lichtenheld  
Cindy Matheny  
Jeff Hayes

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Chairman Tizzio called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Ms. Gennell noted that she and Mr. Stimac had been in attendance at the September meeting, but were not listed in the minutes.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the September minutes with the corrections noted by Ms. Gennell.

Chairman Tizzio stated that the Mental Health Walk, held October 5 on the Seminole-Wekiva Trail, was a success, with approximately 80 walkers.

### **Related Reports:**

BPAC – Mr. Lichtenheld reported that he attended the October BPAC meeting at MetroPlan and that the members had expressed disappointment that the Mobility 2020 initiative had failed. He said that the BPAC staff indicated MetroPlan was considering resubmitting the proposal on the upcoming ballot with a different emphasis.

Natural Lands – Ms. Burkett reported that Clifton Springs is no longer under consideration for acquisition because the owner wanted to retain the majority of the property and only sell a very small portion containing the spring. She also stated that the Lansing purchase was coming along well, with matching funds on the way.

Ms. Burkett stated that if the Board of County Commissioners approved a proposed hazardous waste training site on the north side of Osprey Trail, that trail staff should coordinate with Public Safety to ensure trail access and preservation of a buffer.

FNST – Mr. Dykes discussed the delay in construction of the Econ River Bridge and indicated that his group had blazed a “shortcut” trail up 419 to Willingham to the Osprey Lakes trailhead, and this route is ready for use.

Mr. Martin asked if a state legislator might be asked to help move the bridge permitting forward.

Mr. Lichtenheld stated that Frank Van Pelt, Team Leader, was meeting with Commissioner Randy Morris on that topic, and that Comm. Morris would be traveling to Tallahassee on a number of County issues.

Bike Issues – Mr. Lichtenheld reported that Mr. Donihi had attended a bicycle conference in Madison recently, and had participated in his first 100-mile ride. He also stated that Mr. Donihi was unable to attend this meeting because he was in Washington, D.C.

DRC – no report

Coordination/Planning – Ms. Matheny reported on the October 14 Board of County Commissioners meeting, during which the Board had voted to withdraw the rezoning and land use amendment for the proposed Mandell trailhead site on E.E. Williamson Road. The committee discussed some of the concerns of the residents in the area.

Ms. Matheny passed out a handout prepared by Mr. Van Pelt which chronicles the history of the trails program in Seminole County.

OGT/FDOT – Ms. Matheny stated that OGT had set up an “Opportunity Map” process whereby counties and other local governments are able to digitize proposed trails via the Internet. Trails listed on the maps may receive special consideration during funding, or may only be considered if listed. Ms. Matheny also stated that she is currently updated Seminole County’s maps.

Ms. Matheny stated that an OGT funding cycle will be open in January 2004 for projects up to \$100,000 and that staff is looking at possible projects.

Mr. Fernandez stated that a Florida Communities Trust grant is purchasing approximately 260 acres north of Rock Springs to connect to the Ocala National Forest, and that a new campground including 15 electric/water sites, has opened adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway.

Ms. Gennell suggested that the history handout say that the Special Projects team is a part of the Engineering Division within Public Works, and should mention the role of the Parks and Recreation Division in maintaining the trails. Also, the handout should include the Riverwalk project since County funds are being utilized for part of the project.

Mr. Dykes asked if the public would be able to use the SR 434 bridge as soon as it is finished.

Construction/Design – Mr. Lichtenheld stated that the bridge will be open as soon as it is finished.

Ms. Gennell stated that a sidewalk is in place until the trail segment is finished.

Mr. Lichtenheld reported that the Flagler Trail contract started this week from the Orange County line to the Econ Bridge for clearing, signing, and construction of the Snow Hill trailhead.

He also stated that 5 bids have been received for the Markham trailhead and are under review.

Mr. Tizzio asked if there were any updates on a potential Special Population trail.

Ms. Gennell said that there was a potential to locate a Special Population trail at the zoo in coordination with their planned expansion, and that the zoo may be eligible for grants to help with construction.

Ms. Burkett stated that the other site previously discussed by the committee, at the Environmental Studies Center, does not have much high ground and boardwalks may be needed. She also stated that some of the walkways at the center have been constructed by private groups and corporations.

## **Old Business**

Speaker's Bureau – Mr. Martin said that he will be working with staff on developing a slide show and that he is ready to send speakers out.

Mr. Tizzio asked if the availability of speakers from the committee could be listed on SGTV.

Ms. Matheny said that that could conflict with the County's own speaker's bureau utilizing staff, but that she would check on the idea, and report back to the committee. She suggested that the committee utilize their contacts in the community to let homeowners associations and other groups know of their availability.

Trails Week Committee – Mr. Hayes reported on the October 18 Seminole-Wekiva Trail/Little Wekiva River cleanup conducted by Parks and Recreation with the Stormwater Division. He said that approximately 25 persons participated, mostly residents from nearby areas.

Mr. Hayes also stated that the Board of County Commissioners had previously approved the Adopt a Trailhead program, and that his department is setting the program up.

Ms. Matheny reported on preparations for the in-line skate clinic to be held at the Softball Complex on October 25.

Friends of Trails – Ms. Matheny indicated that Mr. Donihi is working to have the non-profit group up and running after the first of the year. Since the committee members' terms are up in January, would they consider supporting the dissolving of the committee via a letter to the BCC?

Ms. Gennell stated that things go through evolutionary periods and she does not feel that, as of now, the committee has fulfilled all that it is needed to do. She suggested that the committee see about consolidating with another board, such as Natural Lands or Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Penny asked if there would be a way to expand the Parks and Recreation Board to include several new members. It currently has only 10 members. He asked if there is a waiting list to serve on that board.

Ms. Gennell inquired if there were any vacancies on the committees.

Ms. Burkett stated that Natural Lands does not have a regular agenda items for trails issues, but considers trails when making recommendations.

Ms. Gennell stated that there needs to be some official focus on trails for at least the next two years, even if it is via another committee. Ms. Gennell made a motion to send a letter to the BCC, stating that the committee sees a need for another 2-year terms and requests re-appointment of all members unless the member has requested otherwise.

Mr. Penny said that the trails are 90% planned and that only 10% of the committee meetings are spent on trails issues, that the rest of the meetings are updates from staff.

Mr. Cooper seconded Ms. Gennell's motion for discussion.

Mr. Penny stated that the committee should also ask the BCC, and Parks and Recreation Department, about the potential for expanding the Parks committee to include 2 to 4 new members, with a trails subcommittee.

Mr. Cooper stated that this is not the time to be sending the BCC a message that the committee is not needed.

Mr. Dykes said he felt the committee was providing a public service.

Ms. Burkett said that the committee would be needed for a second trails referendum.

Ms. Gennell stated that there are additional proposed bridges coming up, and that funding is needed for those.

Mr. Fernandez said that the committee should check to ensure it is legal to serve on two appointed boards at the same time.

Mr. Tizzio stated that he would draft a letter to the BCC.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Next meeting:**

The committee voted to hold a single meeting in place of the regularly scheduled November and December meetings. Ms. Burkett will arrange a drive/walk tour of the Environmental Studies Center on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. The tour will be followed by a holiday potluck at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Gennell stated that staff should email the meeting information to absent committee members.

Ms. Matheny asked that members email their RSVP and what they plan to bring, to either Ms. Terry or Ms. Matheny.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.